Effect of LTC ban on Tourism

*438. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ban on LTC (Leave Travel Concession) to the Central Government employees and other Government Organisations has badly hit the domestic tourism industry;

(b) if so, the extent of business affected in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some State Governments including Ministry of Tourism have demanded/requested for restoration of LTC to the Central Government employees; and

(d) if so, what is the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) There is no quantitative analysis available which may indicate that the ban on Leave Travel Concession to Government employees and other Government Organisations has adversely affected the domestic tourism industry. The statistics of domestic tourist visits for the year 2001 available for 18 States/UTs indicate positive growth rate in respect of 11 States and negative growth rate in case of 7 States/UTs.

(c) and (d) The matter relating to suspension of Leave Travel Concession to the Government employees was referred to the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions by the Department of Tourism with a request to review the decision. They are of the view that the measure was aimed at bringing about structural changes in the composition of Central Government expenditure and effect economy in the non-plan expenditure and the decision would be reviewed at the appropriate time.